REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 16, 17, and 21 will be amended and claims 3-4, 10, 13, 18-20 will remain canceled. Thus, claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-12, 14-17, and 21-24 will remain pending in the application. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11, and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,789,140 ("Kotani") in view of US Patent No. 6,848,041 ("Pechanek"). FIG. 9 of Kotani discloses a processing system with a Direct Memory Access (DMA) controller 234 that "predecodes advanced instructions in drawing data, such as line drawing and filling-in of an area, while transferring the data to ... drawing section 232" (col. 9, lines 57-61).
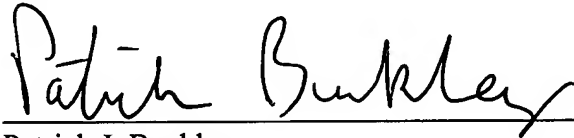
Claim 1 recites retrieving and pre-decoding a first instruction at a DMA unit and providing the pre-decoded first instruction from the DMA unit to a processing element. Moreover, as amended claim 1 recites "determining ... that a second instruction subsequent to the first instruction will not be executed." For example, a jump or branch instruction might result in the next sequential instruction not being executed (specification at page 4, line 1-10). In addition, claim 1 recites "arranging for a pre-decoded second instruction to not be provided from the DMA unit to the processing element." That is, since the second instruction will not be executed, it does not need to be transferred from the DMA unit to the processing element.

Noting in Kotani discloses or suggests such features. Instead, all of the pre-decoded advanced drawing instructions, such as line drawing and filling-in operations, are transferred from the DMA controller 234 to the drawing section 232. Pechanek similarly does not disclose or suggest such features. Since all of the references, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest elements of claim 1 as now amended, reconsideration is respectfully requested. The remaining claims depend from claim 1, or include similar limitations, and reconsideration of those claims are also requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,

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